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Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

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Sandbanks

Provincial Park, 1996 Facilities, Services and Programmes



Those Enchanting Dunes

The West Lake side of Sandbanks Provincial Park has one of Ontario's most remarkable natural and geomorphological features. It is the result of more than 12,000 years of building and sculpting by winds and waves, and stabilization by plants that survive here. What is this wonderful feature? It is the world's largest freshwater baymouth barrier.



The Dunes Beach offers a spectacular view of the infamous sand dunes. Inset Top: Campers enjoy a leisurely stroll on the dunes. Although, the dunes are beautiful, they are very fragile, so watch your footsteps. Middle: Scenic view of West Lake. Bottom: Marram grass, one of the first stabilizing plants of the dunes, is stimulated to grow faster when hit by blowing, shifting sand.

THE FORMATION OF THE dunes resulted from an unusual combination of natural forces that began 12,500 years ago with the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier. This was the last of the four great ice sheets to cover and transform the face of North America. In the wake of its retreat, the Wisconsin glacier left a scene behind far different from what we see today. The land was a rugged, torn landscape of glacial till. Lake Ontario was a narrow body of water. It's shoreline miles from the present-day one. On its north shore was the face of the melting glacier, with rivers pouring millions of tons of sand and gravel into the lake.

Through the centuries, the level of Lake Ontario gradually rose. Strong waves and currents carried sediments toward shore. The sediments then settled at the mouths of shallow bays along Prince Edward County's western shoreline. Heavy storms pushed these deposits into sandbars, which eventually rose above the level of the lake. As a result, the bays behind them were cut off forming East and West Lakes (plus Huyck's, North, Weller's and Pleasant Bays elsewhere in the County). With predominantly southwesterly winds, the sands dried and dunes began to form.

The sandbars became wider, as

even more sand was deposited. Plants began to establish themselves, which was extremely important, as without plants, the sand would simply continue to move and eventually disappear. However, life on the dunes for plants is extremely harsh. Sand is not rich in nutrients, it gets extremely hot during the day and cold at night, it doesn't retain water well, and it readily shifts with the wind. Some specially adapted plants, however, did manage to colonize the dunes.

Marram grass is one of the most important "pioneer" plants we have at Sandbanks. It is actually stimulated to grow faster when hit by blowing, shifting sand. Other plants are also well adapted to dune life. Wild grape and poison ivy have a waxy coat on their leaves to prevent moisture loss. Wormwood wears a coat of white hairs which reflects sunlight and heat away from it, and star-flowered Solomon's seal has specially adapted seeds which won't dry up in this arid environment.

Once these pioneers have begun to colonize the dunes, their death and subsequent decay add important nutrients to the nutrient-poor sand. The sand begins to stabilize, and, with the addition of organic matter, the soil can retain moisture for a longer time. Other plants can now

survive in these areas – sand cherry, heart-leaved willow, and eventually trees such as white cedar. In well-sheltered, stabilized areas, forests grow. On a visit to these areas, it's hard to remember that you're actually in the middle of a sand dune ecosystem.

Of course, some areas of the dunes have not completely stabilized. They are too open and too exposed to prevailing winds to ever support a lot of plant life. Or they have been disturbed in the past by human settlement and activity.

The first human inhabitants of the West Lake dunes were prehistoric hunters and gatherers, who established seasonal fishing camps here nearly 6,000 years ago. These people came to the dunes each spring and fall, attracted by Lake Ontario's enormous migrations of whitefish, salmon, herring and trout. Over several thousand years, different native groups camped in and near the dunes, leaving behind thousands of stone, bone and pottery artifacts.

The dunes remained relatively stable until United Empire Loyalist settlers arrived in the late 1780s. Some of them settled the land near the West Lake dunes, felling veteran cedars to provide timber for houses, fences

and firewood. Then 'Barley Days' hit Prince Edward County during the 1860s. American brewers believed that Canadian barley was not only cheaper, but superior in quality to that grown in the United States. Every available acre of productive farmland was put into the production of barley, and livestock were moved to the grassy hollows of the West Lake sand dunes – with disastrous results.

Where cows were allowed to roam, patches of sand began to show through. The strong winds coming across Lake Ontario carried the sand, opening wide expanses between sand hills, and driving the sand over fields and forests. By the late 1870s, forests, farms, roads and buildings disappeared – buried by, or removed because of the advancing sand. In less than 100 years, the landscape had been transformed. A graveyard of sandblasted tree trunks remained.

In 1911, several local farmers tried to stem the advance of the sand by planting willow trees, some of which can still be seen today. They received help from the provincial government in 1921, with the establishment of a forestry station at West Lake. Success was not apparent,

however, until the 1960s, when a reforestation programme combining snow fencing, mulching and tree planting, finally slowed the encroachment of the dunes onto roads and private lands.

However, a large part of the West Lake dunes is still unstable. The reforestation programme concentrated only on the south end of the dunes, leaving the northern section to attempt to restabilize itself. But this takes time – a lot of time. More so, if people disturb the pioneer plants that are trying to do their job.

So next time you're out in the dunes, marvel at the sturdy plants that manage to survive here. Gaze in awe at nature's wonderful creation, but let us heed our lessons learned from past mistakes. Remember to walk carefully through these precious fragile sand hills. By staying on the trails and by not disturbing the vegetation, you ensure that your impact on the dunes is minimal and that their future existence is protected. ■

M.N.R. # 3334
(30 K.P.R. 96-26 01)
ISSN 0828-1211
REV.

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Printed in Ontario, Canada

Beach! Beach! Beach!

SANDBANKS IS WELL known for its beaches. Visitors travel far to relax and play on Outlet Beach, a three kilometre stretch of pure Bahama-like sand. Sheltered in Athol Bay, the water is always warm, and the shallow water provides a safe place for families to swim and enjoy themselves. Sandbanks Beach on the West Lake side of the park, is an eight-kilometre stretch of sand and limestone. Although not as sheltered, with slightly cooler water, this beach is more popular with walkers and beach goers who want a less busy beach. The park can easily attract over 15,000 people per day on some weekends, and most visitors can be found on one of these beaches.

But there's another, smaller beach, quite popular with some local people, who have been visiting it for years. This is Dunes Beach, tucked away on a corner of West Lake. In ways, it has the best of both worlds. Situated on West Lake, it is sheltered from Lake Ontario



The Outlet Beach is just one of the beautiful beaches you can enjoy at Sandbanks.

winds, the water warms up quickly in the spring, and it is found only a stone throw from the sand dunes. Although it is becoming quite popular, it's still easy to find a spot in the sand you can call your own for an afternoon.

One of the most impressive aspects of Dunes Beach, is the

magnificent view of the dunes it has to offer. You will be tempted to spend most of the afternoon running up and down them. Please remember, though, that these dunes are very fragile, and it is important not to disturb the plants which are managing to survive in this difficult environment.

Another word of caution for those people with small children, or people who are not strong swimmers, this area of the dunes is not very stable. Consequently, sand is continuously being deposited into West Lake, forming a steep drop off about 10 metres (30 feet) out from the shore. This drop off can be seen as a change of colour below the

surface of the water, and is very easy to pick out from the top of the dunes.

Not only does the Dunes Beach offer new swimming opportunities, but it is a great place to spend with family and friends; there is a large playing field suitable for various games, picnic tables, washroom facilities, and lots of trees to provide shade on those gorgeous hot sunny days.

If you'd like to visit Dunes Beach, follow County Road #12 from the main gate. Turn right at the four way stop, and follow the winding road until you see the Dunes Beach on your left-hand side. There are signs for Dunes Beach throughout the park that will direct you. The beach is a short walk from the parking lot. We hope you enjoy Sandbanks' lesser known beach, an added gem to the precious treasure that is Sandbanks Provincial Park. ■

Fragile and Unique

Sandbanks Provincial Park is one of Ontario's most delightful recreation spots. The natural marriage of sand and water has created three of the largest and most beautiful beaches in the province, where golden sand and sparkling water make an ideal partnership. It has tall, impressive dunes, built by the sand and water, where old and young alike frolic and play.

It is also the world's largest freshwater baymouth barrier (see "Those Enchanting Dunes," page 2), a fragile and unique ecosystem, and a resource worthy of protection. So how do we enjoy this wonderful area without having negative impacts on it?

"It's quite easy to enjoy the park without causing any environmental damage," says Park Superintendent Don Bucholtz. "Many areas can withstand a lot of use, and in the more fragile areas, we're working on resource management initiatives to minimize the impacts."

Resource management and public awareness are very important at Sandbanks if we are to protect the natural environment. Each year, more than 350,000 people visit Sandbanks to enjoy its natural beauty and take advantage of the beaches and park facilities. People need to be aware of the impacts they can have on the park – especially the negative ones – if it is to be protected.

"Park programmes run every day in the summer," says Joanne Dewey, Assistant Park Naturalist. "We like to cover a variety of topics. We try to help visitors understand how special Sandbanks is. With this understanding they can help preserve the park's natural and cultural heritage."

flowers, the impact really is minimal. However, we have so many people who visit Sandbanks every year, even if a small percentage of people litter, walk off trails, or pick plants, it's a big, and negative, impact."

Some things are common sense. Most people realize that stripping

not everyone realizes some of the other impacts their visit can have.

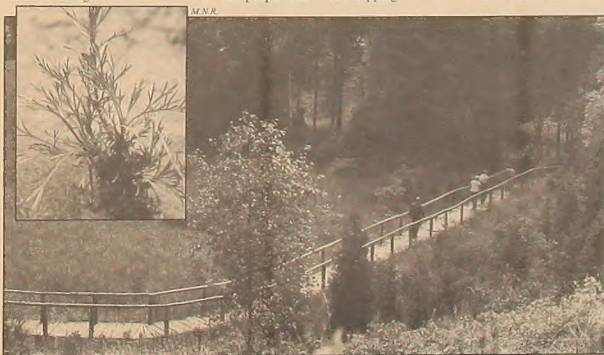
"In the past few years, we've been fencing off the foredunes behind Outlet Beach," says Don. "We've left only a few walkways for people to go back and forth to the beach. This is to reduce the erosion of those dunes, and

roads in other areas of the park can also have negative impacts. The soil becomes compacted and eroded, and plants find it difficult to grow. In the big dunes of West Lake, which are constantly battling the wind and other natural forces, the impact of people disturbing these areas, makes it virtually impossible for plants to colonize these open, sandy areas.

When canoeing and boating, it's important to choose a landing site where you're not going to disturb plants growing along the shoreline. And, particularly on the Outlet River, motorboats should be driven slowly, to prevent erosion of the banks, dislodging of plants and disturbance of wildlife.

There used to be a saying "take only pictures, leave only footprints." Unfortunately, in a park as fragile and unique as Sandbanks, we even want to minimize the footprints. "We want people to enjoy the park," says Joanne, "but we want them to also be aware of what they are doing."

So next time you plan on taking that shortcut to the beach or the comfort station, think of the impact you might be having on the park. Tell others too. We hope that you have an enjoyable stay, while leaving the park as you found it, for the enjoyment of others to come, and for the preservation of this unique and fragile natural environment. ■



Inset: Wormwood is one of the unique plants to be found in a sand dune ecosystem. Boardwalks and trails help protect this fragile environment, but only if used by the thousands of visitors who enjoy Sandbanks.

So what influences are people having on the park? And do they really matter? How much difference does one person really make?

"The problem is, we have more than one person visiting the park," says Don. "It accumulates. If one person walks off the trails or picks a few

the bark off a tree is like removing its skin, subjecting it to disease and insect infestation, which can kill the tree. Placing nails in trees creates entry points which can also lead to disease and insect infestation. Picking flowers can kill the plant, removing its chance of reproducing itself, and reducing the food source for animals. But

encourage the natural vegetation to regrow. The plants hold the sand and stop it from blowing away, particularly in the fall, when winds can be quite strong. Every spring, maintenance staff remove sand from the parking lots, where it has blown along a walkway. We need walkways to the beach, but not as many. Walking off designated trails and



Park Notes

Parking Your Vehicle

While you are in the park, please ensure you display your park permit clearly visible on the dash of your vehicle. Park Wardens check vehicles daily to verify whether they are legally in the park. A fine is levied against vehicles which do not display a valid permit.

A sign is located at the entrance to each campground or day use area advising which permit is required. Please see Summary of Provincial Offences (page 5) - "Parking" for more details.

Pet Etiquette

People and pets don't always mix in a provincial park setting, and sometimes they can create problems for one another. To make everyone's stay at Sandbanks as enjoyable as possible, and to avoid conflicts, we ask pet owners to follow these simple rules:

1. Keep your pet on a leash not exceeding two metres (six feet), and away from designated swimming and beach areas. If you wish to take your pet for a cool dip, please do so in the Outlet River.
2. Please clean up after your pet.
3. Never leave your pet unattended. A barking dog at an adjacent campsite can be very annoying.

By adhering to these common sense rules, you can help make a vacation at Sandbanks a more enjoyable experience for your family and other park visitors.

Shelter Equipment

To avoid overcrowding and to minimize damage to campsites, the Ministry of Natural Resources limits the quantity and type of shelter equipment that you may place on a registered campsite. A campsite and vehicle permit authorizes you to place one vehicle and up to three pieces of shelter equipment (for example, a tent or a tent-trailer) on your campsite. However, only one of these three pieces of shelter equipment can be a tent-trailer, a house-trailer or a self-propelled camping unit. Thank you for your cooperation.

Handicapped Facilities

To make Sandbanks more accessible to those confined to wheel chairs, we have added two facilities to make sure disabled people can also enjoy the outdoors. Campsite number 177 has been equipped with a picnic table to accommodate wheel chair use and a gravel pad has been installed which connects to a short pathway leading to the comfort station in Outlet River (Area A) Campground. This campsite has been set aside for this use and will only be reserved or sold to people presenting the Ministry of Transportation disabled person parking permit or a CNIB National identity card.

To Contact a Park Warden

From the third weekend in June until Labour Day the main entrance to the park is staffed 24 hours a day. Should you require the assistance of a park warden, please do not hesitate to approach our main gate attendant. He or she will contact a park warden by radio immediately.

Before and after these dates, our park wardens may be patrolling the Park, but may not be at the main entrance. Please use the emergency phone numbers posted at the main gate and at the canteen pay phones to contact the appropriate authority for your situation.

Superintendent's Messages

Father Goose Helps Give Cedar Sands Trail a Face Lift!



Hollywood comes to Sandbanks. Branti Film Production Company filmed scenes for a soon to be released feature film in the park.

THANKS TO THE FRIENDS

of Sandbanks and a Hollywood film company, our nature trail has received some needed upgrading to several boardwalks and the addition of two new lookout stations along the Outlet River. Branti Film Production Company handed over a substantial cheque to the Friends of Sandbanks last fall as compensation for the use of a small area near the Dunes Day Use Area. Branti, a Toronto-based company associated with Columbia Pictures, filmed scenes in the

park for a feature film about a naturalist "Wild Bill" Lishman, better known as "Father Goose." Bill used an "Easy Rider" ultra light plane to guide a flock of geese on a southern migration to South Carolina. The site at Sandbanks served as a double for the southern marsh winter home of the geese. Scenes were also shot at the park office. The yet to be titled, movie will star Dana Delaney (China Beach), Jeff Daniels (Terms of Endearment) and Anna Paquin (The Piano). It is due to be released sometime in the spring of 1996.

The money received by the Friends from Branti Films was used to fund the extensive work carried out on the Cedar Sands Trail in the fall of 1995. The Friends of Sandbanks have many similar projects planned for the park, as they continue to raise funds through various events and activities.

Visit the Friends Nature Shoppe for details on how you can become a member of the Friends of Sandbanks Park Cooperating Association. ■

Emergency Information

First Aid

There are first aid kits in all our park offices and vehicles. In the event of an injury or accident, please do not hesitate to approach any member of our staff. Most staff are trained in basic first aid and can offer assistance with minor cuts and scrapes.

Lost Persons

If a member of your group becomes lost, contact one of our staff immediately. If the lost person happens to be a child, ensure that someone stays at the exact spot where the child was last seen, and that someone else waits at the child's campsite.

Fire and Evacuation Procedures

Although there has never been a serious forest fire at Sandbanks,

it is important that visitors be extremely careful with campfires and smoking materials. The Park does have an Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan that can be put into effect immediately upon any staff member being advised of an emergency situation. For your information, the locations of emergency exits have been noted on the campground maps.

What to do in case of fire:

- Don't panic.
- Report the fire immediately to any of our park offices or staff.
- Follow the directions of our park staff, as they are trained for emergency situations such as these.

If you would like to learn more about forest fire prevention, please drop by the Visitor

Centre, where there are some excellent pamphlets available.

Emergency Telephones

Emergency telephones can be found near the white flagpoles on the beach in the East Lake Sector of the Park and on the Lake Ontario side of the West Lake Sector. When you lift the receiver on one of these phones, an alarm sounds at our Park Office and our emergency response plan goes into effect.

Emergency Numbers

Park Office... (613) 393-3319
O.P.P.
Emergencies... 1-800-267-7444
Enquiries... (613) 476-2151
Fire Departments
Picton... (613) 476-7232
Bloomfield... (613) 267-3000
Ambulance... 1-800-267-2151
Picton Hospital... (613) 476-2181

Summary of Provincial Offences

There is one basic rule in Ontario Provincial Parks: **Have respect and consideration for your fellow visitors and the park environment.** The following table lists some of the more common laws enforced in the park as well as the minimum fines that apply. The Provincial Parks Act and other legislation governing behaviour in provincial parks are available in the Park office. These laws are enforced by Park Wardens who are Peace Officers defined under the Criminal Code of Canada and have the authority of a member of the Ontario Provincial Police Force in a Provincial Park.

OFFENCE	FINE	EXPLANATION
Alcoholic Beverages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have liquor displayed to public view - Consume liquor in other than licensed premises or residence (campsite) 	\$105.00 and/or eviction	You are permitted to consume, possess and open alcoholic beverage ONLY on a registered campsite. In addition, a total alcohol ban will be in effect from May 10 to May 20, 1996. During this time, possession of alcohol is prohibited everywhere in the park.
Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fail to park in designated area - Park vehicle in area not designated by additional vehicle permit 	\$10.00	All vehicles must be parked in designated areas. Only one vehicle may be parked on a campsite. Most sites are not large enough to accommodate 2 vehicles without vegetation being damaged. An Additional Vehicle Permit only provides for a second vehicle to be parked in a specific Additional Vehicle Parking area. All parked vehicles must have a valid permit displayed on the vehicle. Day passes are not permitted in campgrounds.
Fail to display permit on parked vehicle dash of the	\$25.00	
Bicycles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate vehicle off roadway 	\$55.00	Bicycles are only allowed on roads. Since they cause damage to the trail surface, and are a nuisance to hikers, their use on all trails is prohibited.
Campfires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start fire other than in fireplace 	\$55.00	Fires are only permitted in designated fireplaces for safety reasons. Park visitors should not have to worry about stepping on hot coals on the beach or anywhere else. By restricting fires to the fire rings provided, the risk of an uncontrolled forest fire is reduced.
Camping Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Place more than 3 pieces of shelter equipment 	\$30.00	Without a limit on the amount of camping gear allowed, campsites would quickly deteriorate, becoming larger and larger, eventually destroying the surrounding vegetation. A dining tent is considered a piece of shelter equipment.
Camping Permits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fail to vacate and remove property from campsite on expiry - Unlawfully occupy campsite - Camp over time limit 	\$55.00	You are required to vacate and remove all property from your campsite by 2pm. on the date your permit expires so that others will have access to it. The maximum length of stay in a provincial park is 23 days to allow for greater turnover of campsites and to provide access for a greater number of visitors.
Entering the park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enter park at other than designated entry point - Unlawfully attempt to enter park after removal 	\$55.00 \$155.00	Visitors must enter through the main gate of the park to prevent unauthorized entry. After eviction from a provincial park, you are prohibited from re-entering all provincial parks for 72 hours
Fireworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possess fireworks - Ignite fireworks 	\$55.00 \$105.00	Possession or use of fireworks is prohibited at all times in provincial parks. They constitute a fire hazard and disturb visitors who want to enjoy the park in a peaceful manner.
Fishing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resident or non-resident angler without licence 	\$55.00	All Ontario residents between 18 and 65 years of age are required to purchase a fishing licence. Non-residents - please check fishing regulations. Revenue received are used for fisheries improvement. Licences can be obtained outside the park.
Hours of Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlawfully enter park after closing hours - Unlawfully remain in park after closing hours 	\$55.00	Only registered campers are allowed in a provincial park during the posted hours of closing - 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.
Hunting & Firearms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlawfully possess weapon in provincial park 	\$105.00	To protect park visitors and wildlife, hunting and the possession of firearms are not allowed in Sandbanks Provincial Park
Motorized Vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlawfully take motor vehicle into park or possess or operate it 	\$55.00	Licensed motor vehicles may be operated on roads only. All provisions of the Highway Traffic Act apply on all park roads. Off-road vehicles are not permitted into the park because of the environmental damage which results from their use. Each vehicle in the park must have a valid permit displayed on the dash of the vehicle.
Pets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlawfully permit domestic animal at large - Unlawfully permit domestic animal to be in swimming area or on beach - Permit domestic animal to make excessive noise 	\$30.00	For health and safety purposes, all domestic animals must be kept under control, and on a leash not exceeding 2 metres, at all times. Under the Public Health Act, pets are not allowed in swimming areas or on the beach at any time.
Plants, Animals and the Natural Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Damage natural or other object - Unlawfully cut plant or tree - Unlawfully remove natural or other object - Unlawfully make excavation 	\$80.00	All vegetation, wildlife and natural features are protected by law in provincial parks. Nothing, including wildflowers and dead wood, may be picked, removed or damaged. Picking wildflowers removes the seed source, which could threaten the species future in the park. Even dead wood is protected, since it provides homes for wildlife and replenishes the soil when it decays.
Refuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Litter - Fail to keep campsite clean 	\$105.00 \$80.00	Deposit all garbage and litter in the containers provided to discourage raccoons and other wildlife from becoming pests. Campsites must be kept clean and tidy at all times to eliminate potential hazards to park visitors and wildlife.
Rowdiness/ Noise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use abusive or insulting language - Make excessive noise in park - Disturb other persons in park - Damage Crown property 	\$105.00 and/ or eviction \$80.00	Provincial parks are established to provide a setting for peaceful, natural experiences. Rowdy behaviour, including excessive noise and obscene language, is not permitted. You are not allowed to disturb any other person or interfere with anyone else's enjoyment of the park at any time of the day or night.
Trenching Around Tent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deface natural or other object 	\$80.00	Digging a trench around a tent damages the site and the vegetation on it. This practice is unacceptable in a heavily used park such as Sandbanks.

NOTE: The above fines are subject to change without notice.

Camper Information

Camping

Sandbanks Provincial Park has three campground areas: **Outlet River** and **Cedars** in the East Lake sector, and **Richardson's** in the West Lake Sector, offering a total of 411 campsites. There is sufficient variety in the location and exposure of these sites to satisfy most tastes, however, choice is often limited by the popularity of the park.

How To Make A Reservation

Since Sandbanks is one of Ontario's busiest provincial parks, **you should make a reservation**, if you plan to camp at the Park during the mid-May to Labour Day period.

1. Reservations may be made by mail, by telephone, or in person. We charge a small fee for this service.

Telephone Reservations:

The reservation phone number is: (613) 969-8368

The park reservation phone line is open between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. It is closed on all Statutory Holidays.

Mail-in Reservations:

The address for mailing reservation requests is **Sandbanks Provincial Park, R.R.#1, Picton, Ontario K0K 2T0**. We recommend using the mail-in reservation form found on this page. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with each mail-in reservation request. Please note: We do not accept faxed reservation requests.

In Person Reservations:

During the normal park operating season, reservations can be made directly at the main gate or at the park office. Visit the park office week days between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The main gate is open

24 hours per day as of late June to Labour Day.

2. A maximum of two reservations may be made at one time.

What We Need To Process Your Reservation Request

1. When requesting a reservation, we require the following information:

- Arrival and departure date
- Name
- Full address
- Type and size of camping equipment, e.g., tent or trailer site?
- Number in your party;
- Credit card number Visa/Mastercard and expiry date.

If making a reservation for another party we will need all the information above, about the person occupying the campsite.

2. All reservations must be guaranteed with a Visa/Mastercard number, or by cheque/money order (payable to the Minister of Finance). Cheques arriving less than 21 days before your arrival date cannot be accepted.

Reservation sites must be paid for at the time of booking or a credit card number given to 'hold' a site until your arrival.

While we try to accommodate requests for specific campsites, **we cannot assure you of a specific site until we have received your payment in full.**

Reservation Changes? Call (613) 969-8368

If you need to change your campsite, or the dates of your reservation you must phone the reservation line, (613) 969-8368, or mail-in information to the reservation clerk. If you want to shorten your stay you can call and park staff can cancel the days you no longer require.



Have to Cancel? Phone (613) 393-3319

1. If you must cancel your reservation. Be sure to let us know by **12:00 noon** on the start date of the reservation. So that we may issue a full refund of camping fees (the reservation fee is non-refundable) to you and assign the campsite to another party.

2. Cancellations received after 12 noon on the arrival date will be charged one night's camping fee, plus the reservation fee.

3. Prepaid Reserved sites are held only until 8:00 a.m. of the morning following the start date of your reservation. If we have not been contacted by this time, we will presume that the camper is not coming. One night's camping fee, plus the reservation fee is charged for all unclaimed reservations.

If You Are Delayed Or Can't Make It To The Park

1. Let us know if you are not coming. Failure to cancel a reservation results in a 'no-show' charge (one night's

camping fee plus reservation fee). This applies to all reservations.

2. If you are delayed, please call (613) 393-3319 - this applies to prepaid reservations as well, because vacant prepaid sites are treated as 'no-shows' after 8:00 a.m. on the day after the expected arrival date. We try to accommodate changes. Gate staff can take calls 24 hours per day as of late June to Labour Day Weekend.

When The Park Is Full

If there are no sites available and you do not have a reservation, we can tell you when the next earliest site will be open. Please ask at the main gate and our staff can then reserve this site for you. Check in and check out time is 2:00 p.m. If we are unable to accommodate you, our staff will help direct you to other private campgrounds.

Self-Serve Fee Collection

When the main gatehouse is closed, as it is occasionally, we may ask you to pay for your

day-use and camping fees at a self-serve fee collection station. This self serve station is located near the main gatehouse. Simply complete a self-serve envelope, enclose the exact fee (**credit cards are not accepted**), and place your sealed envelope in the deposit box. **Sorry, but refunds are not available. Please be prepared to provide your own correct change.**

The fee collection stations are self-explanatory, however, if you need assistance, drop by the park office. It is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.

Group Camping

Two group camping areas are available at Sandbanks. These areas are designed primarily for youth or special groups, however, when not in use, they may be reserved by adults. The facilities provided in our group camping areas are: firepits, toilets and drinking water taps.

Requests for Sandbanks' group camping areas must be made in writing and received at least two weeks before the group's arrival. Ask at the park office for further details.

Alcoholic Beverages

Alcohol is banned from May 10 to 20, 1996. Once the ban is lifted, you may consume alcoholic beverages only on your registered campsite.

Vacancy Report

From the third weekend of June until Labour Day Weekend, our Visitor Services staff receives a report on the availability of campsites in our local private campgrounds, hotel/motels and bed and breakfast establishments. This report is available at any park office, but specific inquiries regarding the facilities and services offered, should be directed to our main gate staff or visitor centre staff or the Quinte's Isle Tourist Association in Picton. The Association's telephone number is (613) 476-2421.

If you are interested in the availability of campsites in our local provincial parks, then please drop by the main gate or visitor centre where the Barrie Travel Centre report for most eastern Ontario provincial parks is available. The Visitor Centre is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily from late June to Labour Day.

You may also call the Barrie Travel Centre yourself - dial (416) 963-2992 in the Toronto area or if calling outside Toronto dial toll-free 1-800-268-3735 (Monday to Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.). Radio 800 CJBQ serving the Quinte area also broadcasts the Barrie Travel Centre report daily during the peak summer months.

Reservation Application

Name of Provincial Park

Transaction No.

Reserve One Campsite For Preferred Period

Arrival Date: Day Month
Departure Date: Day Month
No. Nights

Reserve One Campsite For Alternate Period

Arrival Date: Day Month
Departure Date: Day Month
No. Nights

Site Preference: 1) 2) 3) 4) 5)

Telephone No. (Applicants): () Type of Campsite Requested: ☐ Tent ☐ Trailer ☐ Hydro

Vehicle Licence Number: Camping Equipment (max 3 pieces) Size and Number: ☐ Ontario Senior Citizen Rates Applicable

Applicant's Name and Address (including Postal Code please print)

To guarantee a reservation complete either section

☐ Charge Total Fee to Credit Card No.

Visa ☐ Master Card ☐

M.C.I.D. No. Expiry Date

Card Holder's Signature

☐ Cheque/Money Order Enclosed

Nights Camping Fee Reservation Fee Total Fee

x + = \$

Reservation Not Confirmed

☐ No Campsite available for period(s) selected

☐ Other

Reservation Confirmed For

Arrival After 2 pm Departure by 2 pm

Yours to Discover...

QUINTE'S ISLE

AND SURROUNDING AREA

Area Attractions

Macaulay Heritage Park

Macaulay Heritage Park includes the old St. Mary Magdalene church, dating from 1825 and its former rectory, known as Macaulay House, built circa 1830. Both were constructed under the watchful eye of the Reverend William Macaulay, an influential figure in the Town of Picton for most of the nineteenth century. The impressive brick church houses the Prince Edward County Museum, while the adjoining rectory is decorated to portray life in the 1850's. Located at the corner of Church and Union Streets in Picton. Telephone: (613) 476-3833



Lake on the Mountain Provincial Park

This legendary lake, situated some 62 metres (203 feet) above the Bay of Quinte, is one of the great natural wonders of Prince Edward County and southern Ontario. The lake's scenic location overlooking the settlement of Glenora and the ferryboat service is ideal for a family picnic. Day - use only. (613) 393-3319.



Festival in July

Centred in and around the picturesque town of Picton, the Regent Theatre Foundation presents Festival in July (formerly known as the Quinte Summer Music Festival). Now heading into its thirteenth year, it has quickly gained an enviable reputation for the professional nature of its musical and vocal performances. Telephone: (613) 476-7042.



North Beach Provincial Park

With over three kilometres of natural sand beach, cool clean water, dazzling sunsets on Lake Ontario, and plentiful fishing, North Beach Provincial Park is an ideal place to spend time on a hot summer's day. Here you can swim, sunbathe, build the sandcastle of your dreams, or just plain relax. A small canteen, situated along the park's main roadway, sells hot and cold beverages, snacks and fast food items. North Beach, located just off Highway 33 near Concession, is open for daytime use only from late June to Labour Day. Telephone (613) 399-2030 for more details.



The "Amazing" Loyalist Country Adventure

September 21st and 22nd, 1996. This is a two - day open House Tour featuring 80 attractions for the whole family. Visit and ask questions of dairy, goat, sheep, pheasant or vegetable farmers. Pet the animals. Watch the workings of a cheese, cement, mushroom, frozen food or wheelbarrow factory. See how butter is churned, try your hand at milking, quilting or weaving. Visit historic museums and see a blacksmith at work, candle making or a quilting bee. Come for the day or the weekend, be fed, entertained and enlightened. County folk will have the red carpet rolled out to show you the hospitality of county people. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children over 7, free for children under 7. For more information or tickets, call (613) 393-2373.



Quinte's Isle WELCOMES VISITORS

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the members and directors of the Quinte's Isle Tourist Association, to welcome you to Prince Edward County - better known as Quinte's Isle.

Quinte's Isle has everything - the world-famous dunes of Sandbanks Provincial Park; the best fishing and boating waters in Ontario; excellent accommodations for the weary traveller; and hospitable people eager to welcome you and make you feel at home.

And that's just the beginning. There's a lot more to see and do in Quinte's Isle. During your stay, take time to explore our numerous museums and conservation areas. Or experience the heritage of the County on one of five signed tour routes. Art galleries, craft, antique and pottery shops await your discovery.

Quint's Isle - what more can I say? You'll find it unbeatable in any season!

Babbs Welsh
Manager, Q.I.T.A.
(613) 476-2421

Calendar of Events - 1996

June 2/Picton

3:00 p.m. White Chapel Memorial Church Service. Contact: 476-6050.

June 14 to 16/Picton

Antique Fair at Prince Edward Curling Club. Contact: 476-8366.

June 15/Bloomfield

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Loyalist Parkway Flag & Flower Festival. Pancake breakfast, BBQ chicken dinner, Quarter Moon Coffee House, and more. Contact: 393-2373.

June 16/Picton

Macaulay Heritage Park Museum 2:00 p.m. A.C.O. Quinte walking tour of old St. Mary Magdalene cemetery. Contact: 476-3833 or 476-3836

June 15 & 16/Ameliasburgh

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Father's Day Breakfast at Ameliasburgh Museum. Contact: 968-9678.

June 28/ Picton

Macaulay Heritage Park Museum "Reminiscence with Sir John A. MacDonald." Hear about his early life in "The County." This will be offered through the season. Contact 476-3833 or 476-3836

June 30/Ameliasburgh

Dress-up Activity Day at Ameliasburgh Museum. Free admission for those in historic costume. Tea Room, crafts, pioneer cooking and a variety of steam engines. Contact: 968-9678.

July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations

At various locations in Prince Edward County. Contact: 476-2421

July/Picton

Regent Theatre Foundation presents Festival in July

(formerly Quinte Summer Music). Box Office: 476-7042.

July 3/Cherry Valley

Strawberry Pick at Town Hall. Starts at 5:30 p.m. Contact: 476-6709.

July 13to 14/Bloomfield

Bloomfield Breakaway Weekend, Bloomfield. Contact 393-2424.

July 21/Picton

Macaulay Heritage Park. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. "Sunday in the Park" fun for all, rain or shine. Contact 476-3833 or 476-3836

July 30/Bloomfield

7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Quarter Moon Coffee House, Bloomfield Town Hall.

August 1/Picton

Arts & Crafts, Show & Sale sponsored by Prince Edward Women's Institutes, Prince Edward Community Centre & Curling Club. Contact: 969-8181

Aug. 4/Ameliasburgh

Musical entertainment at the Ameliasburgh Museum, "Grand Pa's Good Time Band" Contact: 968-9678.

Aug. 10 to 12/Ameliasburgh

Custom Car Exhibit at Roblin Lake Park, next to Ameliasburgh Museum. Contact: 968-9678.

August 13/Waupooos

6th Annual Quinte's Isle Tourist Association Fishing Derby, Waupooos Marina. Contact: 476-2421.

August 18/Cherry Valley

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Athol Day. Parade, carnival games, stage show, baby contest, and exhibits. Athol School Grounds. Contact: 476-6709.

August 25/ Picton

Macaulay Heritage Park 2:00 p.m. Museum Walking tour of

Macaulay's Picton including tour of old Courthouse and Gaol. Contact 476-3833 or 476-3836

August 27/Bloomfield

7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Quarter Moon Coffee House, Bloomfield Town Hall.

September 2/Ameliasburgh

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Activity Day at Ameliasburgh Museum. Horse shoeing, fly wheels, spinning, weaving, antique toys. Contact: 968-9678.

September 6 to 8/Picton

Prince Edward County Fair, Picton Fairgrounds. Contact: 476-6154.

September 14/Milford

Milford Fair, Milford Fairgrounds. Contact: 476-4505.

September 11 to 16/Ameliasburgh

Blacksmith Workshops. Ameliasburgh Museum. Contact: 968-9678.

September 22/ Sandbanks

Provincial Park Sandbanks Fall Getaway 10k & 5k Fun Run. Hosted by Friends of Sandbanks. Contact 393-3319

September 21&22/ Bloomfield

Loyalist County Adventure. Gigantic Open House featuring: Historic Homes, Farms, Artist Studios, Factories and much more. Contact 393-2373.

October 13/Ameliasburgh

Harvest Festival, Ameliasburgh Museum. Pioneer crafts and activities. Contact: 968-9678.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION on these and other local events, please telephone the Quinte's Isle Tourist Association at 613-476-2421.

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Poison Ivy

AT **SANDBANKS** Provincial Park, Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*) grows as a low plant up to 1 metre (3 feet) tall. It is found in most areas of the park, from open sand locations to forested habitats. Poison ivy can be difficult to identify, but it always has three leaflets, with the middle leaflet longer stalked than the other two. The plant has no hairs, thorns or prickles, and a few wavy teeth are usually present along the edges of the leaflets. In fall, the leaves turn a brilliant gold, red or orange.

The poisonous oil of poison ivy is present in all parts of the plant except in the epidermis (skin), anthers and pollen. Still, brushing against the plant – even lightly – can bruise it, releasing the oil onto whatever touches it. Once in contact with human skin, contact dermatitis may occur. A generalized sensitivity of the skin can also occur, so that a rash may appear anywhere on the body.

Reaction to poison ivy varies greatly. A rash may develop in as little as six hours or within 12 days. Average reaction time is 1–2 days. Healing time also varies – an afflicted area may remain sensitive for several months, or disappear within a day or two. These rashes are not contagious – people cannot transfer it among themselves unless they have just touched the poison ivy plant and still have the

oil on them. Animals are immune to it, pets may pick up the oil and transfer it to you when you touch them, so beware.

Ruffed grouse and deer often feed on the berries and leaves of Poison ivy. It is also an important stabilizing plant, helping to prevent erosion in this natural environment park. We therefore do not remove this plant from most areas of the park. Instead, we help park visitors learn to identify poison ivy and how to avoid it. This way the natural processes at Sandbanks can continue to flourish with minimal interruption from us.



"Leaflets three, let them be." Several plants at Sandbanks have three leaves. If you are not sure, be safe, and do not touch them. For close up view drop into the Visitor Centre.

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61 MAIN ST. BLOOMFIELD



More Camper Information

Sink Wastes

Please dispose of your waste water at any toilet or at the trailer sanitary station.

Drinking Water

You can get fresh drinking water from any of the water taps or comfort stations in the park.

Extended Mirror Hazard

Extended mirrors pose a hazard for children and fellow campers. Please help us to prevent accidents by removing the extended mirrors from your vehicle once your trailer has been unhitched. Thank you.

Church Services

Interdenominational church services are held at the Amphitheatre in the East Lake Sector of the Park every Sunday morning during July and August. All church services begin at 11:00 a.m. The times of other church services in our local communities are available at the Visitor Centre.

Garbage Disposal

You will receive a plastic garbage bag when you register at the main gatehouse. Please leave your sealed bags of garbage in the disposal compounds, at the exit to each campground area, before 2:00 p.m. each day. **Do not leave garbage on your campsite because it attracts insect and rodent pests.** Additional garbage bags are available at the main gate.

Additional Vehicle Parking

At Sandbanks, you are allowed to park only **one vehicle on your campsite**. Additional vehicles must be registered at the main gate, and left in the parking lot provided outside of your campground area. **Permits are required for all vehicles and must be displayed clearly on your vehicle's dashboard.**

Note: Our park wardens are empowered to ticket any vehicle that is illegally parked. Please be sure to display your additional vehicle permit for the wardens to see.

Leaves of Three, Let Them Be!

Poison Ivy grows along the shady borders of Sandbanks' forested dunes. It can take the form of a bush, a small shrub or vine climbing as high as 9 metres (30 feet) on a tree trunk.

Many children and adults are unable to identify Poison Ivy. If you do not know what this poisonous plant looks like, take time to drop by the Sandbanks Visitor Centre. Information sheets and a display, which describes in detail, how to identify Poison Ivy, are available there. (See article on page 10)

Waterfront Safety

Beach Supervision

Our park staff regularly patrol designated swimming areas on foot or by boat. They do not, however, provide constant observation of the beach and lake from towers. Their main responsibilities include: keeping the beach clean; curbing rowdiness; and, ensuring that dogs and other animals are not brought onto the beach.

Parents, **our beach areas are not supervised**, so you must assume responsibility for your children's safety and welfare at all times. Please observe the following rules while on the beach or in the water:

- Never swim alone. Always use the buddy system.
- Stay close to shore. Wade out and swim in towards the shoreline.
- Use air mattresses and inflatable

able toys in shallow water areas only.

- Watch children and non-swimmers at all times.
- Avoid consuming alcohol as it impairs judgement, and is dangerous in combination with swimming.

If you suspect a drowning or any other type of water emergency, please use the **emergency phones** (located at the base of each flagpole) to contact the Park Office. From the Park Office, we can immediately notify all of our staff by radio.

Beach Flags

At Sandbanks, we use flags to inform visitors of beach and water conditions. A green flag means water is calm and safe. A yellow flag means moderate water conditions, and a red flag indicates dangerous water

conditions, and that swimming is not advised.

Designated Swimming Area

To protect swimmers from the risk of contact with watercraft, areas of the park have been designated as swimming areas only. Boats and watercraft of all types are prohibited from entering these areas.

Designated Boardsailing Area

To ensure the safe use and enjoyment of the Park's main beach by all visitors, we must insist that boardsailors, launch and operate their boards away from the designated swimming areas of the Park.

The swimming and boardsailing areas are defined on the map on page 16 of this tabloid. The boardsailing area is denoted physically by signs and buoymarkers.

August. During May and for two weekends after Labour Day, the ONESTOP Convenience Store will be open Friday evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays. Tel. 393-3244.

Pets

For everyone's health and safety, we ask that you keep your pet(s) on a two-metre (six foot)-long leash (maximum) and away from designated swimming and beach areas. You may, however, take your pet(s) for a swim in the Outlet River.

Litter

Please leave your campsite neat and clean for others to enjoy. It only takes a minute or two to pick up the papers, bottle caps and other litter that has accumulated during your stay

The next camper to occupy your site will appreciate your efforts. We also ask that you use the waste receptacles provided in our day use and beach areas. A few minutes of your time will help us to keep Sandbanks beautiful.

Trailer Sanitary Station

There is a trailer sanitary and refill station near the entrance to Cedars Campground.

Firewood

You may buy firewood at the Firewood Concession located next to the Outlet River. (Check the map on Page 16 for the exact location of the concession.)

During the 1996 camping season, the Firewood Concession will be operating

Outlet River and Cedars Campgrounds:

May 10 to June 8:
(Fridays and Saturdays)
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

May 17 to 19
(Victoria Day Weekend)
5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

June 14 to September 2
(Daily)
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(Fridays and Saturdays)
till - 10:00 p.m.

September 6 and 7
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Please Be Considerate

Loud music and excessive noise can disrupt a good night's sleep and daytime peace. Please respect the feelings of your fellow campers and keep Sandbanks quiet at night and in the daytime too. Report any incidents of undue noise immediately. With your help, everyone can have a pleasant and quiet vacation.

Complaints, Comments and Suggestions

We want to know what you think about our services, our facilities and our interpretive programmes. Even more importantly, we want you to know that a safe environment is being maintained for you.

Please alert us to any conditions that you feel may be hazardous to visitors, and help us to assess the quality of our services by filling out the comment card on the back of your campsite permit and dropping it in the expired permits box near the main gate when you leave.

If you have a complaint, report it immediately to our park staff or offices. Appropriate action will be taken as soon as possible.

Please note, some of the operating procedures mentioned in the camper information are subject to change for the 1996 operating season. If you have any questions, please contact the park office (613) 393-3319. Thank you.

Telephones

You will find public pay telephones in front of the park store in the East Lake Sector of the park, near the Richardson Campground and near the main gatehouse.

Comfort Stations

Each campground area (with the exception of Richardson's Campground) has a comfort station, equipped with hot and cold running water, showers and electrical outlets. **The One Comfort Station in Outlet River Campground (area A) also has laundry facilities.** Toilets are conveniently situated throughout the Park.

Recyclables

Items that can be recycled; clear plastic bags, newspaper,

magazines, box board, household paper, rigid and foam plastic containers, aluminum trays and foil, glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage cans. As necessary, you can deposit those materials into appropriate blue bins at the garbage disposal compounds. Please ensure that coloured glass items are separated from those made of clear glass. Please ask us about our composting program, as well.

Park Store

Groceries, ice, baked goods, camping supplies, souvenirs and fast food (to eat-in or take-out) are available at the Oasis Restaurant and ONESTOP Convenience Store near the Outlet Beach. Both facilities are open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. during June, July and

Calendar of Special Events

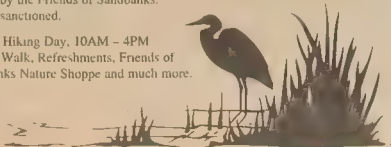
Sunday, May 12 Mother's Day Spring Celebrations, 10AM - 4PM
Wildflower Walks, Bird Banding demonstration, Friends of Sandbanks Nature Shoppe, Refreshments

Saturday, July 27 Lakeshore Lodge Day, Noon - 5PM
Wander down memory lane as we re-create a turn-of-the-century picnic at the famous Lakeshore Lodge grounds. Games, refreshments, music, hay rides, costumed staff and more help re-create this time. Don't miss the fun!

Sunday, Sept. 22 Sandbanks Fall Getaway - 10k & 5k Fun Run
Along scenic shores of lake Ontario. Start time 10:00 a.m.
Hosted by the Friends of Sandbanks.
O.R.A. sanctioned.

October 6 Ontario Hiking Day, 10AM - 4PM
Guided Walk, Refreshments, Friends of Sandbanks Nature Shoppe and much more.

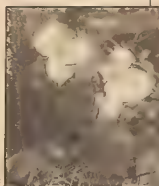
For more information on these events please stop by the Visitor Centre or call (613) 393-3319



Sandbanks' Spring Secrets

AS WINTER GIVES WAY to spring, and the days become longer and warmer, subtle changes start taking place at Sandbanks. Small green stalks begin to push their way up through leaf litter on the forest floor as the first spring wildflowers start to grow. To flower successfully, and thus ensure new flowers for the future, they must complete their growing cycle before the leaves open on the trees above, cutting off the sunlight from the forest floor. Spring visitors to Sandbanks will be greeted by a variety of wildflowers, from the common but popular trilliums, trout lilies and violets to the lesser known Dutchman's Breeches, hepaticas and Mitreworts.

As visitors to Sandbanks walk carefully amongst the carpet of wildflowers, they often forget to look around. Which is unfortunate, for if they do, they will be greeted by yet another harbinger of spring – migrating birds. Robins are often thought of as a sure sign of spring, but some robins actually remain all winter. The Red-winged Blackbird, an easy bird to identify, is a better indicator of spring as they usually arrive in mid March. But it's some warblers and other small birds that are easy to overlook, that



The Pannes of the West Lake side of the park offer great opportunities for viewing wildlife. Inset: Outlet River Campground has the largest variety of wildflowers. The Trilliums form a lush carpet of white and pink covering the forest floor.

will give you the greatest sense of delight. These tiny birds (smaller than a chickadee) travel north hundreds or thousands of kilometres from their winter homes. Some have Sandbanks as their destination, staying for the summer to nest and rear their young. Others simply use Sandbanks' to rest and feed before continuing on their journey.

Warblers wear myriads of bright colours, especially the males in the spring, as they try to attract a female to mate with them. A first to arrive is the Yellow-rumped

Warbler, whose name describes him quite well. Not far behind him are exotic-sounding birds such as Black-throated Blue Warblers, common Yellow-throats and Blackburnian Warblers. They can be difficult to spot as they move quickly through the trees, feeding on insects they find which are also emerging at this time of year. But when one is spotted, it is quite rewarding, as these colourful spring gems are quite a pretty sight.

Many other animals are also quite active at this time of year,

making them a little easier to spot. Reptiles and amphibians wake from their hibernation, and are on the prowl looking for food and a mate. Overwintering insects emerge, and fish become more active as the water warms up. Many mammals, like deer, raccoon, and fox, give birth at this time of year.

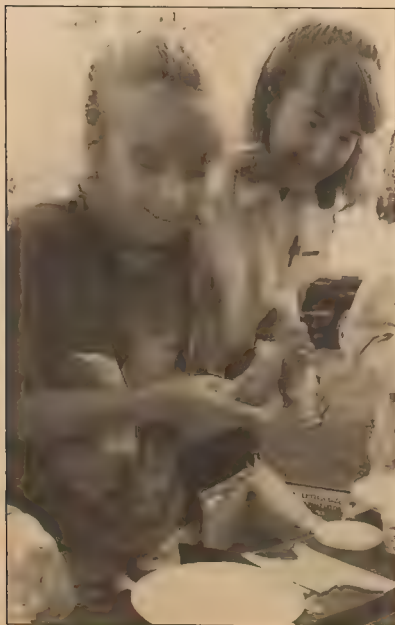
Trying to see it all can be both frustrating and rewarding. You're bound to miss that Solitary Vireo flying by while you're looking at the Marsh Mangolds. And there's so much to see that often the long walk

you planned doesn't get you far from your car. Which means you can look forward to another visit – different area, different time of day, later that same spring.

Anywhere in the park is a good place to be in the spring for birdwatching, but a few have their specialties, and is worth checking out. West Point, protruding into the lake, looks quite attractive to birds who are just completing their long journey over Lake Ontario. And it's here also, that you'll find White Trout Lilies, a rarity in Ontario, Spring Beauties and Virginia Waterleaf. The pannes of the West Lake side of the park are full of frogs and toads, calling at dusk for a mate. Outlet River Campground probably has the largest variety of wildflowers, and the beach is a good place to look for shorebirds – small birds that dash along the water's edge, probing the sand for food.

So come out and experience Sandbanks at a time when there are few people and lots to see. Spring starts in April, peaks in May, and goes into June. You'll see a side of Sandbanks few have ever seen – but those that have seen it, keep coming back to enjoy more of Sandbanks spring secrets. ■

We Want to Entertain You!



THIRTY-SEVEN children sit, listening intently, as the park naturalist weaves a story of huge sand dunes, awesome plants and amazing animals. They've just finished a game of sand tag, which taught them the importance of staying on trails to avoid erosion. They're looking forward to making a sand dune food chain to take back to their campsites. These kids are participating in just one of the many children's programmes offered throughout the summer here at Sandbanks.

Interpretive programmes have been offered at Sandbanks for years – it is one of many services offered to visitors by the park. But why have these programmes at all? And why don't we show feature films, have magicians and clowns, or stand-up comedy routines? Easy questions to answer.

"Park programmes are designed to give visitors an opportunity to understand various aspects of the park's natural and cultural features," says Park Naturalist Yvette Bree. "We want our visitors to learn about the park,

how unique and fragile it is. So that they in return can help to protect this natural resource," adds Bree. Doesn't this sound a little dry? Not with the variety of programmes the park has to offer.

Campfires, guided walks, game shows, slide shows, nature films, bicycle tours, children's programmes, bird banding demonstrations, guest speakers, puppet shows, and children's story hours are just some programmes offered. "Not every programme is for everybody," comments Yvette, "and that's why we have so many different ones to choose from. I guarantee you'll find something you like!"

Years ago, most interpretive programmes had a standard format. Evening programmes traditionally showed slide shows on some aspect of the park, followed by a film. Guided walks consisted of strolls along a trail to observe plant and animal life. Today, these programmes are popular, but now there's even more. "Everybody likes to have fun," says Yvette, "but there's no reason why you can't learn also. Our campfires, game

shows, children's programmes and special events are designed with this in mind."

There's so much to learn about Sandbanks, whether you're a first-time visitor or a "regular." "Every time I go into the park to present a programme, to do research, or simply take a walk, I see something new. And I can't wait to share it with park visitors."

So come out to a programme! You say you don't like insects? Then come to a bird banding demonstration! History's your thing? Join us for a stroll through the grounds of the old Lakeshore Lodge. The more you learn about your park, the more you'll learn to appreciate its rich history, and its importance as a unique natural area.

Programmes are held every day throughout July and August. Weekly Calendar of Events posters can be found throughout the park on bulletin boards, advising visitors of times, topics and location. If you'd like your own copy of the calendar, drop by the main gate or Visitor Centre.

See you at a programme! ■

Our children's programmes are very popular. Kids learn about the park's natural features and have fun at the same time

Come and Explore...



R.W. Turnbull

At the Visitor Centre

What lives in the Outlet River? What does poison ivy look like? Who left the native artifacts found here in the park? The answers to these questions, and many more, can be found at the Visitor Centre. The Centre is located just inside the main gate, and also houses the **Friends of Sandbanks' Nature Shoppe**. It is open daily 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. from June 21 until September 2, and on weekends from May 11 until October 14, 1996.



A. Bortolacci

Programmes for Kids

Join us for hands on nature and history programmes which are full of fun and adventure for kids of all ages. Hikes, games, crafts, legends, role playing and puzzles are only a few of the activities planned on a variety of topics. These events are generally planned for Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at 10:00 A.M. Check the Calendar of Events posted at bulletin boards around the park to be sure!

Parents Please Note: Programmes generally last one hour. Children under the age of six must be accompanied by an adult.

Hey Kids... Let Us Show You The Fun Side Of The Park

Passport to Awareness Programme

Are you a friendly, helpful camper? Do you want to learn more about Sandbanks? If so, you may qualify for Sandbanks' Passport to Awareness programme.

Awareness

This part of the programme allows children of all ages to learn more about the nature and history being preserved within the park. Six different quiz sheets have word games, brain teasers, puzzles and other activities on different park-related topics, such as birds, natives, mammals, etc.. The quiz sheets are available at the Visitor Centre, and answers can be found in the Centre, around the park, in this newspaper, or the park brochure. Park naturalists are also happy to help.

Once completed, the quiz sheet is returned to the Visitor Centre, where kids will receive their passport with an appropriate sticker. They can then continue working towards filling their passport with more stickers. Topics change each year, and this activity is the highlight of the summer vacation for many children. Come find out why!



A. Bortolacci

Environmental Friendliness

Unfortunately, not everyone who visits Sandbanks treats it with the respect it deserves, some people litter, leaving a mess when they leave. If you'd like to help, collect a bag full of garbage from around the park, or a cupful of bottle caps and flip tops from cans, or clean a campsite – yours or a vacant one. Garbage bags are available from the main gatehouse; forms for cleaning your campsite can be found at the Visitor Centre.

Bring your efforts into the Visitor Centre (we love getting all that garbage!), and you'll be rewarded with a sticker for your passport for each task you complete. And don't forget to remind people that littering is wrong!

Please Note: This programme combines the Good Camper programme from previous years with the Young Naturalists Passport to Awareness programme. The programme is open to all ages. Drop by the Visitor Centre if you need more information.



T. Sprague

On a Guided Walk

Experience Sandbanks first hand. Explore our famous sand dunes, discover the aquatic life of the Outlet River, or learn about the park's history on one of our guided walks. Check the bulletin boards for dates, times and locations.



Picton Gazette

In the Evening

Our evening programmes are intended to entertain, inform and educate park visitors. To do this, we reveal Sandbanks rich natural and cultural history through; campfires, guest speakers, slide shows, demonstrations, game shows, films and more. Come enjoy the entertainment and discover the story behind the scenery. Check the weekly **Calendar of Events** posted on bulletin boards throughout the park to see **what's on tonight!**

Friend's Corner

by Terry Sprague, Chairman

WHAT IS A "FRIEND"?
One dictionary defines a friend as "one with whom one is united in some purpose or cause.....a patron or supporter."

What better way is there to describe the camaraderie that exists between

Sandbanks Provincial Park and The Friends of Sandbanks Park? The Friends operates as a co-operating association under agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources to enhance the interpretive potential of the park and the bond between the park and the visiting public. "Making the park an even better place to visit" has become a mission of the Friends of Sandbanks.

Now entering its fourth year of operation, the Friends of

Sandbanks is working hard to build its roster of members and volunteers. This team of dedicated park supporters has many ambitious projects lined up for 1996, and in the years to come. The restoration and use of existing, but currently seldom used, historic buildings located within the park; interpretive publications; and even greater efforts to offer interpretive/recreational events during the shoulder seasons are all projects being examined and undertaken by the Friends.

Already, the Friends have been involved in several of these activities such as the increasingly popular and expanding Mother's Day Spring Celebrations, Trash Bash Day, Winter Family Fun Day and a September Fun Run. The Friends are also participating each spring during the April Reservations start-up. Dedicated

campers who show up for this annual ritual in April vieing for the perfect summer campsite are now finding their weekend of waiting more pleasant. The Friends are on hand in the Nature Shoppe with refreshments and an opportunity to warm up and browse through the items for sale.

One of our most ambitious projects last summer was the operation of The Friends Family Cottage, located within the Park. This cottage offers campers at Sandbanks a slightly different approach to camping, providing fully furnished facilities complete with a fireplace, a private shoreline and space to roam. With minimal advertising the cottage was fully booked last summer, and we are looking forward to another exciting summer and fall season with the cottage. Plus, the cottage is available to those interested in winter activities at the park. This year when you visit Sandbanks Provincial Park, be

Join Us Become a Friend

To join The Friends of Sandbanks, complete this form and mail it along with your membership fee, or you can drop it off at the park office.



PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Province/State: _____

Postal/Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: () _____

Membership fee of \$10.00 payable to:
Friends of Sandbanks

P.O. Box 20007, 219 Main St., Picton, Ontario K0K 3V0
Telephone (613) 393-3319

sure to drop into The Nature Shoppe and check out The Friends of Sandbanks. Browse through our publications, T-shirts and small novelty items for the kids. Consider the Nature Shoppe too for a souvenir of your visit to Sandbanks Provincial Park as we now have wildlife carvings for sale from local artisans who live in the Sandbanks area.

Also, think about a membership in The Friends of Sandbanks. Members are entitled to a discount on all Friends items sold, and will receive "Between Friends," a regular newsletter about the Friends' activities and the Park. By becoming "A Friend" you will be doing your part in supporting the interpretive programs in the park.

Enter the...

1996 Photography Contest

SEND US YOUR photographs for the 1996 Sandbanks Photography Contest! There are two categories in this contest.

- 1) The Great Outdoors gives you a chance to show us your favourite spots with photographs of the nature and scenery of Sandbanks Provincial Park.
- 2) People in the Park show us people having fun outdoors - hiking, fishing, camping, enjoying a view, relaxing.

To Enter

On the back of each photograph entered clearly print the photograph's title, category, location in the park, and the photographer's name and address.

- Photographs should be unmounted colour or black and white prints. An 8 x 10 format is preferred, but not mandatory.
- Entries are accepted until December 31, 1996. Enter as often as you like.
- Photographs will be returned in stamped, self-addressed envelopes only.
- Photos are judged by a panel of Park's staff and Friends of Sandbanks board members.
- By entering, all contestants agree to the use, without charge of their names and

photographs for promotion of Sandbanks Provincial Park. Parks Ontario reserves the right to copy and use any entries for future programs and publications.

Send entries to:

"Sandbanks Photo Contest"
Sandbanks Provincial Park
R.R.#1 Picton, Ontario K0K 2T0

*Sandbanks Provincial Park/Friends of Sandbanks Park staff are not eligible to enter

Prizes

- One week free camping at Sandbanks Provincial Park
- Two weekends free camping at Sandbanks Provincial Park
- Summer Vehicle Pass
- Cameras; Film etc.

sponsored by
**FOSTER'S
IMAGE CENTRE - PICTON**

Honourable Mention:

If you didn't win, you still may see your photograph in the park tabloid, or other publications.

Winners of the 1993 Photography Contest. One of the special events held to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Provincial Park System.

Photo Credits:

BabyCheryl Lewis
Boy with TowelJohn Oughton
Girl with FrisbeePam Longworth
RiverKenneth Spencer
Fungus on TreesHelen Williams

Sandbanks' Photo Contest



sponsored by

**FOSTER'S
IMAGE CENTRE**
Picton, Ontario



The Shipwreck Era

IT WAS A COOL November morning in 1882 and activity was prevalent around the MacDonald / Hyatt wharf site. Horse drawn carts were everywhere and farmers and hired hands were hurrying, trying to load all of the cargo destined for New York before the storm set in. "We better cast off while we can captain" a hired hand shouted out. "A couple more hours mate and we'll have her loaded!" replied Captain O'Hagen, the man in charge.

It was obvious just a few hours later that it would be impossible to set sail in such a southwest gale. The only thing they could do to protect the ENTERPRISE was to hang onto the lines and anchor and try to wait out the storm. The wind blew too strongly for the lines to hold and the ship became a total wreck while still at the wharf site. No loss of life occurred but the shipment of grain was a total loss. (The MacDonald / Hyatt wharf site is located across from the large white barn along the lakeshore on County Road 12. This site like many others that existed in the area was unprotected and exposed to all of nature's elements.)

The above scenario is only but an example of the hardships which occurred regularly during the 1800's along the southern shores of Prince Edward County

(P.E.C.) Shipwrecks were common occurrences in these waters. So many boats were lost on these rocky shoals that P.E.C. earned the name of "Graveyard of Lake Ontario shipping." More shipwrecks with fatalities have occurred in the waters between Kingston and Presqu'ile Point than anywhere else in Lake Ontario. Shipping was the life line to all communities. Water was the principal mode of transportation and unfortunately the Fall and early Winter were the busiest seasons to export the hard earned harvests. This was also one of the most unpredictable times of the year for violent storms. Captains had to rely on their instincts most of the time, and sometimes their instincts were wrong.

Another shipwreck lying in the midst of Sandbanks Provincial Park was the ANN JANE BROWN who was on her way from Kingston to Cobourg on December 15, 1854. She went aground off Wicked Point (now called Salmon Point) during a blinding snow storm. She was carrying fish, wine, and rails for the Grand Trunk Railway which in the captain's words acted like a huge magnet steering her compass into the shore during one night. It wasn't until next morning that a local fisherman rescued the six frozen crewmen. They even managed to rescue most of the cargo and recovered



M.N.R.



So many ships were lost on the rocky shoals of Prince Edward County, that it earned the name of "Graveyard of Lake Ontario Shipping." Inset: The lighthouse at Salmon Point still stands to this day, although it no longer is used to guide ships.

the ship which sailed again to eventually bed her timbers in Toronto Bay in the early 1900's.

Another very well known shipwreck in the Sandbanks area was that of the JESSIE who ran aground on Point Petre in 1870. She was loaded with 13,000 bushels of grain and was considerably low in the water. She came to anchor in the bay with her lower sails standing, probably to wait out the south east breeze which wasn't sufficient to clear the shallows of Point Petre. This is not known for sure, for no one ever came ashore alive. The next day brought gale winds from the

southwest with waves as high as houses. The schooner tried to escape but failed. She probably never got away from her anchors. She crashed into fragments on that very point.

From the shore, people could be seen clinging to the mainboom above water. Brave farmers and fishermen tried time and time again to get out to the wreck but would never get past the point where the backwater would meet the oncoming wave. Everyone on shore witnessed a young man trying to swim ashore and cheering him on as he approached the shore. Twice he came in close enough to stand up

upon the shore waist high. Twice he was swept out again by the undertow. It was recorded that his endeavour lasted nearly four hours before he was struck on the head by debris, to then sink out of sight. He was apparently the only body recovered.

They say that the wreck of the JESSIE is probably the reason a lighthouse was erected on Salmon Point the following year. Other known ships to sink near Sandbanks are: the OWEN, Persia, Primrose, Frank C. Barnes, Hannah Butler, Henry Folger, Ellen and the Clara Hill.

Raccoons and You

RACCOONS ARE ONE OF the most frequently encountered mammals at Sandbanks Provincial Park. These masked marauders usually amble through the campgrounds in the middle of the night, looking for an easy meal of marshmallows or supper time's leftovers. They often engage in loud fights with each other, making them unwanted visitors in the eyes of most bleary-eyed campers.

Unfortunately, raccoons may soon become a public health problem, if a strain of rabies that infects primarily raccoons, reaches eastern Ontario. Rabies is a viral disease carried in an animal's saliva. Rabies can infect humans and other mammals through a cut or scratch, or through contact with the moist tissues of the mouth, nose or eyes. All mammals are susceptible to rabies, an infectious disease of the central nervous system.

The strain of rabies that has been present in Ontario for decades is the Arctic Fox strain. Foxes and skunks have primarily carried it,

but other mammals often contract it. Raccoon rabies is only a different strain of rabies which raccoons carry primarily. It is still treatable with the same vaccines and treatments and it can still affect any mammal.

Currently, many agencies, led by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, are working together to prevent or slow the spread of raccoon rabies in Ontario. Live trap, vaccinate and release programmes help to build a defensive wall near the Ontario/New York border. No one knows when, raccoon rabies will reach the Sandbanks area, if at all. But now is the time to anticipate and prepare for what may become a problem.

The following suggestions will minimize unwanted encounters:

1. Keep food attractions to a minimum. Hang your food from a tree, or keep it in your car. Remember to wrap your food well to minimize odours that act like a magnet for foraging raccoons.
2. Keep garbage attractions to a minimum. Hang it as you would your food, or better yet, put it in

the garbage disposal before you go to bed. Use a plastic garbage bag, and remember to dump greasy dishwater and food scraps down a privy - don't splash them around your campsite.

3. Always keep your pets leashed and under control. Raccoons have sharp claws and teeth, and are more than a match for your pet. A rabies vaccine is essential, but do not regard this as a safety net for a roaming pet.

Although raccoon rabies has not yet reached Sandbanks Provincial Park, these suggestions are important for both campers and raccoons. Raccoons and other wildlife are just that - wild. Feeding them (purposefully or otherwise) increases the risk of bites or other injuries to campers. And wild animals dependent on a nutrient-poor diet provided by campers, have great difficulty surviving the long, cold winter, when no hand outs are available. So even without the threat of raccoon rabies, these measures will ensure the health of Sandbanks' wildlife community and keep your visit enjoyable and safe.

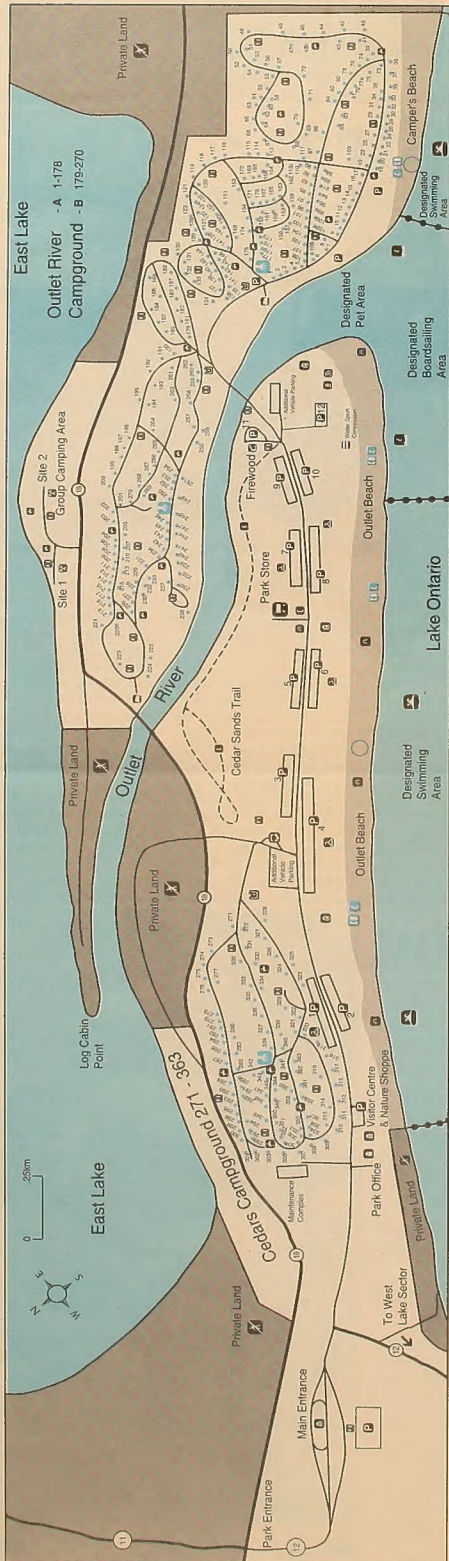


C. Wolfe

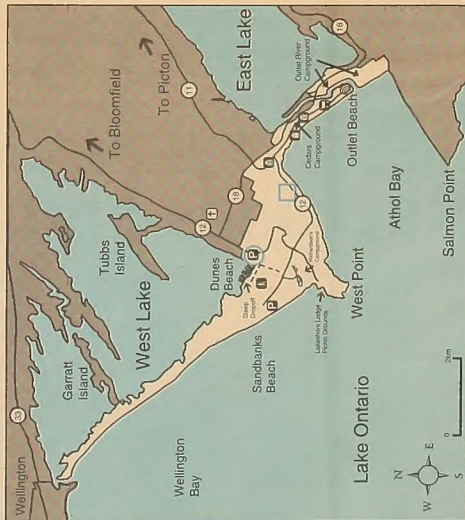
Raccoons and other wild animals are best left to find their own food. It's healthier for them, and safer for you.

Camping and Day Use Facilities

3 1761 11547623 6



Sandbanks Provincial Park Map Overview



Legend

- Park Office
- Park Store
- Visitor Centre & Nature Shoppe
- Campsite
- Group Camping
- No Trespassing
- Subsided Storage Pits
- Boat Launch
- Firewood Collection
- Amphitheatre
- Campfire Circle
- Nature Trail
- Toilets
- Church
- Swimming Area
- Boarding Area
- Evacuation Point
- Primary Evacuation Point
- Emergency Telephone
- Pay Telephone
- Beach Flag
- Group Camping
- Garbage Disposal/Recycling
- Trailer Sanitation Area
- Water Tap
- Pond Area
- Pine Area
- Pond Tip

Richardson's Campground 401 - 450

